

EC Partners

Yemen's Ministry of
Public Health and
Population

Governorate Health
Offices

District Health Offices

National Population
Council

Facts and Figures

- Total Budget: € 8 million (100% of total)
- Duration: 2005-2009



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Health care and training

Improving access to quality reproductive health services in Yemen

Community Based Health Financing component

In February 2009 I was brought to the hospital. I was diagnosed with ulcer and heart disease. I was then provided with the required treatment for one week which amounted to 150 EUR. All the cost was covered by the CBHF fund and I could not believe that I did not have to pay anything. God bless all the people involved in this great work!

Mrs. Marim Mohammed Salah, a patient from Bajan Village in Yafea'a District, Lahj Governorate



Context

Yemen still struggles to provide adequate maternal health. Less than 50% of women are attended by skilled health personnel even once during pregnancy. The Community Based Health Financing (CBHF) fund was designed to increase access to maternal health care. The programme is based on the principle of voluntary membership and contribution, and targets therefore the most disadvantaged population. Registered families pay an agreed annual fee and are covered for a package of health services, provided by a contracted health provider. The small scale and flexibility of the rules of the CBHF are its main advantages.

Objectives

- To improve reproductive health services in Yemen
- To support the effective provision and increased population coverage of sustainable basic package of essential health services in the governorates of Taiz and Lahj

Impact

- Establishment of a rational management of human resources at governorate and district level
- Effective provision of quality health services
- Rationalisation of the funding of health services and the financial management of health expenditure

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EuropeAid

Personal story of Mrs. Marim Mohammed Salah, a patient from Bajan village in Yafea'a district, Lahj governorate.

A Community Based Health Financing (CBHF) scheme was piloted in Yafea's district within the scope of Health Sector and Demography Support programme. Mrs. Marim's family paid an agreed annual fee and herewith covered themselves for a package of health services provided by the contracted hospital.

In February 2009 Mrs. Marim got very ill and was brought to the '14 October' hospital. *"I was examined and diagnosed with ulcer and heart disease. I was provided with the required treatment for the period between 21 February 2009 to 28 February 2009. The bill for medicines and in-patient care amounted to 150 EUR and was covered by the CBHF fund"*.

When Mrs. Marim discovered that the CBHF fund in Bajan would pay for all the hospital bills, including the medicines, and that the hospital would not request any money from her or her family, she could hardly believe it. She was very happy and prayed to God saying: *"Please bless all the people involved in this great work!"*

In the following weeks the CBHF office received many calls and requests from members in the surrounding villages. The case of Mrs. Marim proves the success and shows impact of the CBHF, especially on the poorest people in desperate need of quality health care.